The Venus Project

Beyond Poverty, Politics & War

The Magazine | Issue 3

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in today´s world.
How fair is it for people?

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TVP
Aims & Proposals

New Frontiers of *Social Change*

New Frontiers of Social Change

by Jacque Fresco

It has often been observed that common crises create common bonds. While people seek advantage during times of prosperity, shared suffering tends to draw people closer together. We have seen this behavior repeated time and time again throughout the centuries, during times of flood, famine, fire or other natural disasters.

Once the threat is resolved however, scarcity patterns once again begin to steer people back to their behaviors of seeking individual advantage. Sensationalist motion pictures such as Independence Day depict a world united for the purpose of repelling an invasion by a hostile alien culture. Indeed, it seems that the only force that would mobilize the world in a unified direction would be one that poses a common threat, such as a colossal meteor hurling towards the earth, or some other major catastrophic event. If such an event were to occur, all border disputes would become irrelevant in the face of impending disaster.

While many would call upon divine intervention for salvation, all nations would surely combine their efforts and call upon science and technology to deal with this common threat. Bankers, lawyers, businessmen and politicians would all be bypassed. Every resource would be harnessed and mobilized, without any concern for monetary cost or profit.

Under this kind of threatening condition, most people realize where the key to their survival lies. For example, during the Second World War, it was the collective mobilization of both human and material resources that lead to a successful resolution for the U.S. and its allies.

As the amount of scientific information grows, nations and people are coming to realize that even in today's divided world, there are in fact many common threats that transcend national boundaries. These include overpopulation, energy shortages, pollution, water shortages, economic catastrophe, the spread of uncontrollable disease and so forth. However, faced even with threats of this magnitude, which are common to all nations, the direction of human action will not be altered so long as powerful nations are able to maintain control of the limited resources available.

Although many people, publications and multi-media presentations portray various aspects of the future and paint spectacular pictures of the developments to come in such areas as transportation, housing and medicine, they ignore the fact that in a monetary-based economy, the full benefits of these developments continue to be available to a relative few. What is not touched upon, is how these new technologies of the future can be used to organize societies and economies efficiently and equitably, without the necessity of uniformity, so that everyone would benefit from them. The few think tanks devoted to brainstorming newer approaches to bring social organization up to speed with today's technological capabilities do not deal with social change as a global systems plan.

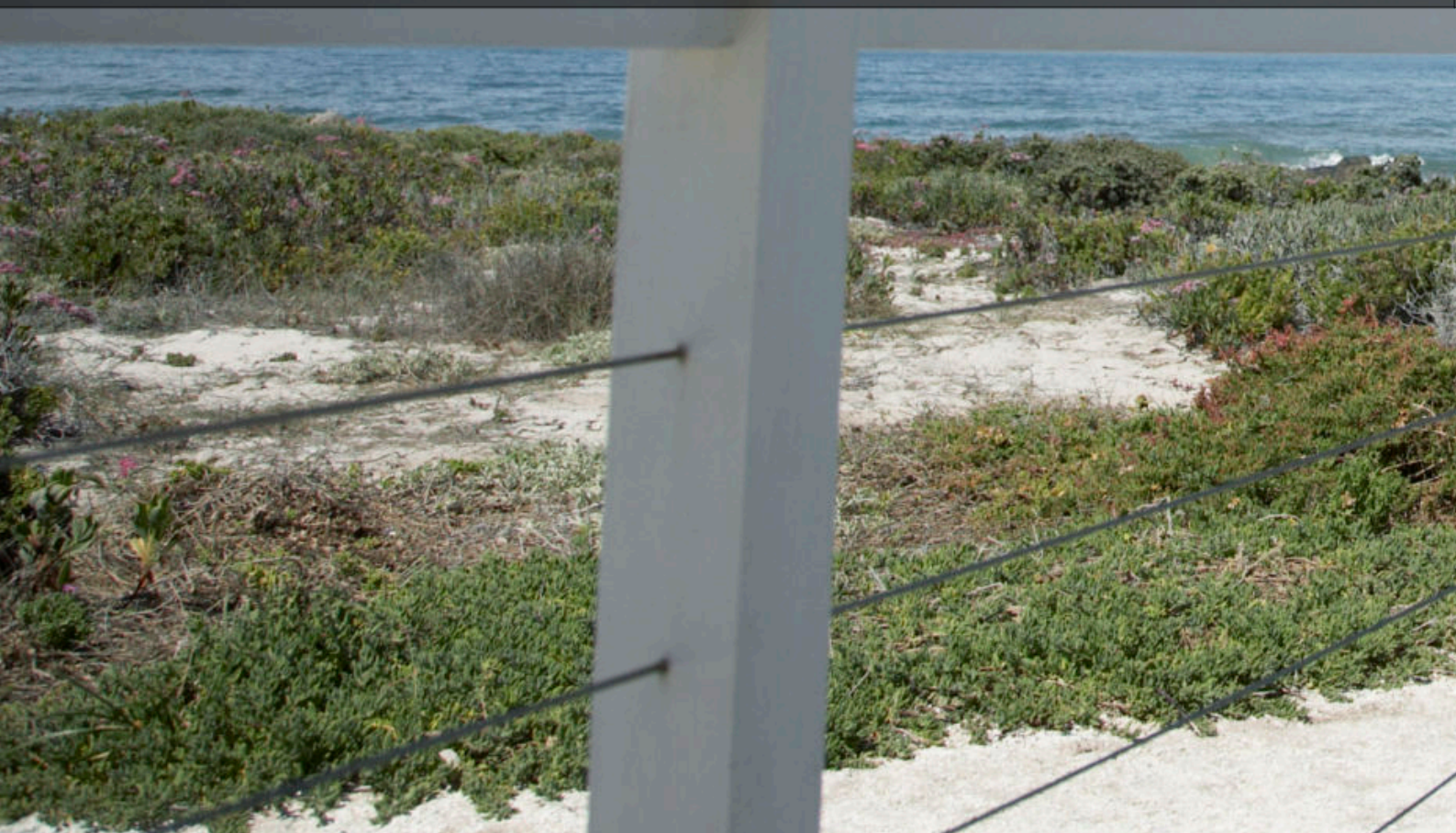
Neither are there any overall social plans in government or industry to totally eliminate the negative effects of the displacement of people by machines, nor does there seem to be any genuine concern to do so. Many people believe that in the event of any social breakdown, the government will bring about the necessary changes for their survival. This is highly improbable though. In the event of such a breakdown, the existing government would most likely declare a state of emergency in an attempt to prevent total chaos. It would then institute measures that may address immediate problems, at the same time attempting to preserve existing institutions and power structures, even though these may be a chief contributing factor to the problems.

Many people throughout history have taken politicians to task for actions that have not been entirely in society's best interest. The reasons for this become clearer when one realizes that even in modern democracies, these leaders do not benefit the lives of the average person. Rather, they maintain the preferential positions of much of the established order. There are growing indications of awareness on the part of people in many areas of the world that events have gone beyond the control of their political leaders. Everywhere, we see political figures and parties come and go, political strategies adopted and discarded for their inability to satisfy the demands of one faction or another.

The reason that we do not suggest writing your congressman, or any number of governmental agencies, is that they lack the necessary knowledge to deal with our problems. Their focus is to preserve existing systems, not to change them. It appears that there are few within present-day societies who want to phase themselves out. In modern industrial societies, the cause of inaction lies within the cumbersome political process itself, an anachronism in an era when most decisions can be made on any important issue in a split second by the objective entry of relevant data into computers.

The prime conditions that would really effect social change will come about when conditions have deteriorated to such an extent that governments, politicians and social institutions no longer have the support and confidence of the people. What once worked is acknowledged to be no longer relevant. If the public were better informed, only then would it be possible to introduce a new and improved social arrangement.

Unfortunately, today the majority of people respond to simplistic answers, which tend to repeat the cycle of events.



When faced with intolerable social conditions, many of the older patterns emerge again as people attempt to find someone or something to blame for the conditions, e.g. minorities, immigrants, negligence in adhering to religious principles or family values, and the influences of some inexplicable supernatural forces. True social change is not brought about by men and women of reason and good will on a personal level. The notion that one can sit and talk to individuals and alter their values is highly improbable. If the person one is talking to does not have the fundamental knowledge of the operation of scientific principles and the processes of natural laws, it is difficult for them to understand how the pieces fit together on a holistic level.

The solutions to our problems will not come about through the application of reason or logic. Unfortunately, at present we do not live in a reasonable or logical world. There appears to be no historical record of any established society's leader who deliberately and comprehensively redesigned a culture to fit the changing times. While there is no question that political leaders, to a limited extent, modify some modes of behavior, the real factors responsible for social change are brought about by bio-social pressures, which are inherent in all social systems. Change is brought about by natural or economic occurrences that adversely affect the immediate circumstances of large numbers of people.

Some bio-social pressures responsible for social change are limited resources, war, overpopulation, epidemics, natural disasters, economic recession, downsizing on a mass scale, technological displacement of people by machines, and the failure of elected officials to overcome such problems. The introduction of the medium of money to the exchange process brought about a significant change in society, as did the introduction of mechanized agriculture and the Industrial Revolution.

We cannot regress to traditional values, which no longer apply. Any attempt to retreat to the methods of the past would condemn untold millions to a life of needless misery, toil and suffering. However, it is not enough to point out the limiting factors that may threaten the survivability of all nations. The challenge that all cultures will encounter in this technological age - some more than others - is that of providing a smoother transition, which would introduce a more appropriate way of thinking about ourselves, the environment and the management of human affairs.

The ultimate survival of the human species depends upon planning on a global scale and to cooperatively seek out new alternatives with a relative orientation for improved social arrangements. If humankind is to achieve mutual prosperity, universal access to resources is essential.

Along with the introduction of new paradigms towards human and environmental concern, there must be a methodology for making this a reality. If these ends are to be achieved, the monetary system must eventually be surpassed by a world Resource-Based Economy. In order to effectively and economically utilize resources, the necessary cybernated and computerized technology could eventually be applied to ensure a higher standard of living for everyone. With the intelligent and humane application of science and technology, the nations of the world could guide and shape the future for the preservation of the environment and humankind.

What is needed to attain a global society is a practical and internationally acceptable comprehensive blueprint.

Also needed is an international planning council capable of translating the blueprint and the advantages that would be gained through world unification. This proposal could be presented in the vernacular, in a way that non-technical people can easily understand. In actuality, no one should make decisions as to how this blueprint will be designed. It must be based on the carrying capacity of our planet, its resources, human needs and the like. In order to sustain our civilization, we must coordinate advanced technology and available resources in a total, humane, global systems approach.

There is no doubt that many of the professions that are familiar to us today will eventually be phased out. With the rate of change now taking place, a vast array of obsolete occupations will disappear more rapidly and more extensively than at any other time in history. In a society that applies a systems approach, these professions will be replaced by interdisciplinary teams – the systems analysts, computer programmers, operation researchers, and those who link the world together in vast communications networks that are assisted by high-speed digital computers. They will eventually lead us to large-scale computer-based methods of social operation. Social operations are far too complex today for any elected politicians to handle.
It appears that most politicians do not give serious attention to this and other problems. Only in times of war or national emergencies do we call upon and assemble interdisciplinary teams to help find workable solutions to varying social problems. If we apply the same efforts of scientific mobilization as we do during a war, large-scale beneficial effects can be achieved in a relatively short time. This could readily be accomplished by utilizing many of our universities, training facilities, and staff to best determine possible alternative methods to solving these problems. This could eventually help us to define the possible transitional parameters for the future of a sustainable global civilization.

The process of social change must allow for changing conditions that would continuously update the design parameters and allow for the infusion of new technologies into emerging cultures. Design teams utilizing socially integrated computers could automatically be informed of new developments. As this process is continuously updated, it would generate a more appropriate code of conduct. By appropriate conduct we mean the necessary procedures to accomplish a given task.

All the limitations imposed upon us by our present-day monetary system could be surpassed by adopting a global consensus for a worldwide Resource-Based Economy, in which all the planetary resources are viewed and treated as the common heritage of all the earth's inhabitants. In this manner, the earth and our technological procedures could provide us with a limitless supply of material goods and services, without the creation of debt or taxation whatsoever.

ENERGY

Geothermal Energy

As refinements in conversion technologies increase its feasibility, geothermal energy will come to take on a more prominent role. Readily available in various geographical regions throughout the world, both on land and under the sea, this energy source alone could provide enough clean energy for the next thousand years.

Solar Power

Solar power has tremendous potential from photovoltaic panels that store energy in batteries for private use, to large scale solar plants on land and in the sea.

The radiation that strikes the Earth's surface each year is more than 10,000 times the world's energy use. New technologies are constantly emerging to harness this potential.

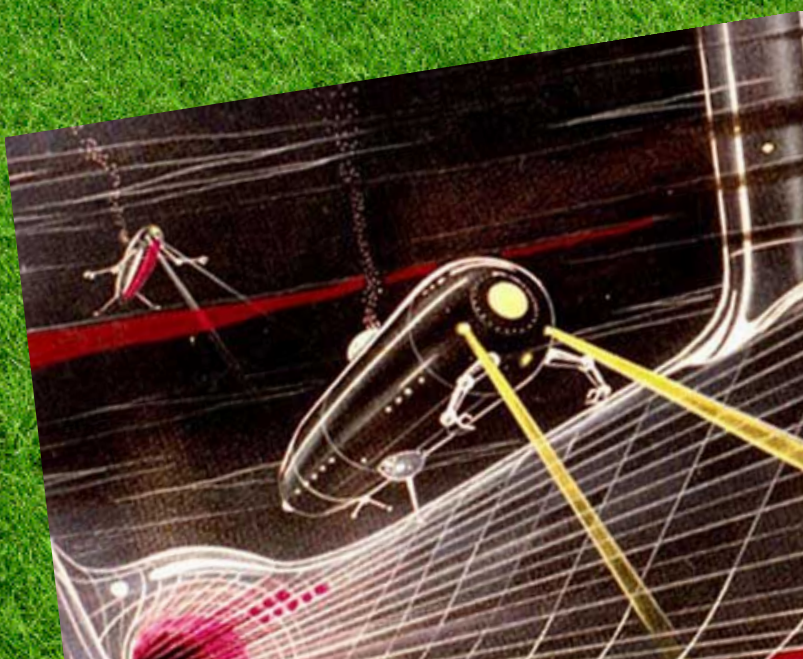
Bering Strait Dam

A land bridge or tunnel might be constructed across the Bering Strait. The primary function of this span would be to generate electrical power and house facilities for collecting and processing marine products. Beneath and above the ocean surface would be tunnels for the transport of both passengers and freight. Not only could this structure provide a physical link between Asia and North America, it could also serve as an avenue for social and cultural exchange. This land bridge would perhaps serve as a base for the development of clean fusion power. Pipelines to conduct fresh water from melting icebergs to other parts of the world may also be incorporated.

Underwater Turbines

These underwater structures are designed to convert a portion of the flow of the Gulf Stream through turbines to generate clean electric power.

These slow rotating turbines would have a centrifugal separator and deflectors to prevent harm to marine life.



Interview with Jacque

Why self taught?

Instruction in academia did not emphasize what I thought of as essential points. I was interested in the broad range of interrelated connections within the physical sciences, but formal studies isolated each branch of science. I therefore took it upon myself to integrate the separate disciplines into a synergistic whole so as to apply science and technology to the solving of global problems.

Do you have any personal heroes?

I owe a great deal to people from many disciplines who contributed to this vision. People like Jules Verne, Edward Bellamy, Howard Scott, Thorstein Veblen, H. G. Wells, Sir Jagadis Chunder Bose, Alfred Korzybski, Walter B. Cannon, Stewart Chase, Clarence Darrow, Arthur C. Clarke, Mark Twain, Jacque Loeb, Carl Sagan and others too numerous to mention.

"Foresight" is not enough for the future, we need "vision". What's the difference between them?

Foresight to me is based on the hopes, desires and aims of individuals, but without a practical blueprint, it is no more than science fiction. A constructive "vision" requires a methodology for achieving the desired goal of a sustainable future. The blueprint must include plans for education, health care, housing, city planning, transportation and clean sources of energy etc.

How does your design process look? How do you start working on something?

I first ask, what do I hope to accomplish and what is the simplest approach to a given problem? By simplest approach, I mean given the tools and information available. If I were to design the least expensive airplane, using minimum materials with maximum strength, and a wide margin of safety, I would select a flying wing. The flying wing eliminates fuselage, tail, rudder and stabilizer. The passengers are seated in the wing. I designed many variations on flying wings in the early 1930's.

Social designs must be based on the carrying capacity of Earth's resources, and not on the philosophy, desires, aesthetics or advantages of particular people. For example, the circular design of cities is based upon a minimum expenditure of energy for maximum social gain. Architecture, when intelligently designed, will use the least amount of material for the safest and most efficient structure possible. As materials improve and change, so will architecture and the designs of cities. This will not limit advantages, but will expand amenities and the goods and services available to everyone.

Which projects get you excited or scare you about the future?

What gets me excited about the future are the fantastic achievements yet undreamed of, and the possibility of global unification. What scares me about the future is our inability to use our technology constructively and intelligently.

Is imagining the most important "starting point" enough for designing?

No, imagining is not the most important starting point. The most important thing is to be specific and not just imagine, but instead to base our design on today's science and technology, and apply it to the well-being of all people and the protection of the environment. This is in contrast to mere wishes, aspirations or philosophical notions.

What´s been the highlight in your life so far?

The highlight is the interest shown to The Venus Project by people throughout the world, through the Internet, magazines, books, documentaries and more.

"In my work, I'm not attempting to predict the future. I'm trying out what's possible with the intelligent and humane application of science and technology.

What we suggest is applying the methods of science to the social system, for the benefit of all humankind and the environment."

Aims and Proposals of The Venus Project

It is common in our mass-media to read and to hear commentators talk about the number of social problems that face us today, such as global warming, destruction of Earth's environment, unemployment, crime, violence, poverty, hunger and the population explosion. Yet, how often do we hear of workable plans for alleviating many of these social problems? It is relatively simple for people to criticize society, however it's much more difficult to identify and implement plans to resolve the problems.

The Venus Project is a veritable blueprint for the genesis of a new world civilization, one that is based on human concern and environmental reclamation.

The plans for The Venus Project offer society a broader spectrum of choices based on the scientific possibilities directed toward a new era of peace and sustainability for all. Through the implementation of a Resource-Based Economy, and a multitude of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies directly applied to the social system, The Venus Project proposals will dramatically reduce crime, poverty, hunger, homelessness, and many other pressing problems that are common throughout the world today.

One of the cornerstones of the organization's findings is the fact that many of the dysfunctional behaviors of today's society stem directly from the dehumanizing environment of a monetary system. In addition, automation has resulted in the technological replacement of human labor by machines and eventually most people will not have the purchasing power to buy the goods and services turned out.

The Venus Project proposes a system in which automation and technology would be intelligently integrated into an overall holistic socio-economic design, where the primary function would be to maximize the quality of life rather than profits. This project also introduces a set of workable and practical values.

This is in perfect accord with the spiritual aspects and ideals found in most religions throughout the world. What sets The Venus Project apart however, is that it proposes to translate these ideals into a working reality.

PHASE 1

The first phase of The Venus Project's long-term plans is already underway. Jacque Fresco-futurist, inventor, industrial designer and founder of The Venus Project and his associate Roxanne Meadows-have completed the construction of a 25-acre research center in Venus, Florida to help present the proposals of The Venus Project. Videos, CDs, posters, pamphlets, models, renderings and books such as "*The Best That Money Can't Buy: Beyond Politics, Poverty, & War*", have been created to help raise awareness about this project and its many proposals.

PHASE 2

Phase Two includes the production of a full-length feature film that will depict how a world embracing the proposals advanced by The Venus Project would work. This film would provide a positive vision of a peaceful society in which all human beings form a global family on planet Earth. A civilization in which all people are engaged in the pursuit of a better understanding of the world they share. This film has been designed to be an entertaining and educational experience for both adults and children.

PHASE 3

To test its designs and proposals, The Venus Project is working towards putting its ideals into practice by the construction of an experimental research city. Blueprints for most of the initial technologies and buildings have begun. Fund-raising efforts are currently under way to help support the construction of this first experimental city.

PHASE 3

This new experimental research city would be devoted to working toward the aims and goals of The Venus Project, which are:

- Realizing the declaration of the world's resources as being the common heritage of all people.

- Transcending the artificial boundaries that currently and arbitrarily separate people.

- Replacing money-based nationalistic economies with a Resource-Based World Economy.

- Assisting in stabilizing the world's population through education and voluntary birth control.

- Reclaiming and restoring the natural environment to the best of our ability.

- Redesigning cities, transportation systems, agricultural industries, and industrial plants so that they are energy efficient, clean, and able to conveniently serve the needs of all people.

- Gradually outgrowing corporate entities and governments, (local, national or supra-national) as means of social management.

- Sharing and applying new technologies for the benefit of all nations.

- Developing and using clean renewable energy sources.

- Manufacturing the highest quality products for the benefit of the world's people.

- Requiring environmental impact studies prior to construction of any mega projects.

- Encouraging the widest range of creativity and incentive toward constructive endeavour.

- Outgrowing nationalism, bigotry and prejudice, through education.

- Eliminating elitism - technical or otherwise.

- Arriving at methodologies by careful research, rather than random opinions.

- Enhancing communication in schools so that our language is relevant to the physical conditions of the world.

- Providing not only the necessities of life, but also offering challenges that stimulate the mind, while emphasizing individuality rather than uniformity.

PHASE 3

Within the experimental city, a theme park is also planned that will both entertain and inform visitors about the possibilities for humane and environmentally friendly life-styles planned by The Venus Project. It will feature intelligent houses; high-efficiency, non polluting transportation systems; advanced computer technology; and a number of other innovations that can add value to the lives of all people - in a very short period of time.

A circular city would be a transitional phase and could evolve from a semi-cooperative money-oriented society to a Resource Based Economy. This could be the prototype for a series of cities to be constructed in various places throughout the world. The rate of progress will depend on the availability of funds raised during the early stages and the people who identify with, participate in, and support the aims and direction of The Venus Project.

As these new communities develop and become more widely accepted, they may very well form the basis of a new civilization, preferably through the process of evolution rather than revolution.

No one can actually predict the future. We can only extrapolate on present information and trends. Population growth, technological change, worldwide environmental conditions and available resources are the primary criteria for future projections.

There is no single philosophy or point of view, whether religious, political, scientific or ideological, that someone would not take issue with. We feel certain, however, that the only aspects of The Venus Project that may appear threatening are those which others project onto it.

The Venus Project is neither Utopian nor Orwellian, nor does it reflect the dreams of impractical idealists. Instead, it presents attainable goals requiring only the intelligent application of what we already know. The only limitations are those which we impose upon ourselves.

2010 World Tour

Jacque Fresco and Roxanne Meadows traveled to over 20 Countries and gave more that 26 presentations about The Venus Project. The lectures were a vision of what the world can be if we apply what we already know in order to achieve a sustainable new world civilization.

"This was an amazing adventure and it was thrilling for us to meet all those who worked so hard to help make this tour such a success.

We deeply regret that we could not do the last four lectures In Canada due to physical difficulties that Jacque was having." - Roxanne Meadows.

Watch all major video lectures from the world tour:

> Bristol, United Kingdom
> Glasgow, United Kingdom (conversation)
> London, United Kingdom
> Tokyo, Japan (private Q&A)
> Tokyo, Japan
> Munich, Germany
> Brisbane, Australia
> Auckland, NZ
> Stockholm
> Ljubjana, Slovenia
> Slovenia (private Q&A)
> Bangalore, India
> Holland
> Eindhoven, Holland (exposition)
> Bogota, Colombia
> Copenhagen, Denmark
> Lisbon, Portugal
> NZ Wellington
> France, Paris

FAQ

What types of pressures would be alleviated in The Venus Project's designs?

The greatest lesson we might learn could be that human beings free of debt, insecurity and fear become much more amiable. No one will be out to sell anyone anything or to deprive another of possessions or money. In a Resource-Based Economy, the basis for unhealthy human aggression will be outgrown. People will no longer be burdened by the nagging concerns that consume so much of our attention, such as mortgages, health care costs, fire insurance, economic recession, the loss of jobs, depression and taxes. With the elimination of these burdens and the removal of the conditions that create feelings of envy, greed and competition, our lives would be far more meaningful. For the first time we may begin to know what it means to be human.

As we enhance the lives of others, protect our environment and work toward abundance, all our lives can become richer and more secure. If these values were put into practice, it would enable all of us to achieve a much higher standard of living within a relatively short period of time; a standard of living that would be continuously improved.

People would be free to pursue whatever constructive endeavor they choose without the economic pressures, restraints and taxation that are inherent in the monetary system. By constructive endeavor, we mean anything that enhances the lives of the individual and others. When education and resources are available to all without a price tag, there will be no limit to human potential. With these major alterations, people would eventually live longer, more meaningful and healthier lives. The measure of success would be the fulfillment of one's individual pursuits, rather than the acquisition of wealth, property and power.

What is the Plan?

It is far more efficient to build new cities as self-contained systems from the ground up than to restore and retrofit old ones. New cities can take advantage of the latest technologies and be clean, safe and desirable places to live. In many instances, a circular arrangement will be utilized.

We need a current survey of all available planetary resources. The first experimental city or planning center will conduct a global survey of arable land, production facilities, transportation, technical personnel, population, and all other necessities required for a sustainable culture. This survey will enable us to determine the parameters for global planning for humanizing social and technological development, based on the carrying capacity of Earth and the needs of its people. This can best be accomplished with a constantly updated, computerized model of our planetary resources.

The function of the first city is to test the validity of design parameters and make necessary changes as needed. It will further this new social direction on many fronts with books, magazines, TV, radio, seminars, theater and theme parks, as well as designing and experimenting with automated building processes for the next city. Research will also seek the development of clean alternative energy sources, and to overcome shortages through the development of new materials.

The new system will provide all the necessities required to support people during the transitional period. To sustain civilization, we must coordinate advanced technology and available resources within a humane global systems approach. For instance, the characteristics of the population in a given area will determine how many hospitals and schools are built and the equipment needed. Some medical systems will be mobile and others will be prefabricated on land and sea.

During the transition, scarcity regions will be provided with heat concentrators for cooking and sterilizing water. Food for those areas can be dehydrated and compressed to save shipping space. The packaging will be biodegradable and may double as non-contaminating fertilizers. Regions without arable land will use hydroponic farms, land-based fish farms and sea farming. Energy will come from wind, solar, heat concentrators, photovoltaic, wave, biomass, geothermal and other sources.

An interdisciplinary team of qualified personnel, in line with the project's requirements, will work on automated systems to produce and supply goods and services on a massive scale. These can be the armies of the future, a large peaceful mobilization to restore and preserve the earth and its people. This has never been done before and can only be done when money is no obstacle. The question is not do we have the money, but do we have the resources and means to accomplish this new direction.

MAIN PAGE
over 86,000 followers and growing

ROXANNE MEADOWS
the personal page of co-founder of The Venus Project

TVP GROUP
over 6,000 members and growing

MAIN PAGE
over 14,000 followers and growing

TVP COMMUNITY
over 1,000 members and growing

The Venus Project on the Web

VENUS PROJECT MEDIA
over 32,000 subscribers and growing

TVP EDUCATION
over 5,000 subscribers and growing

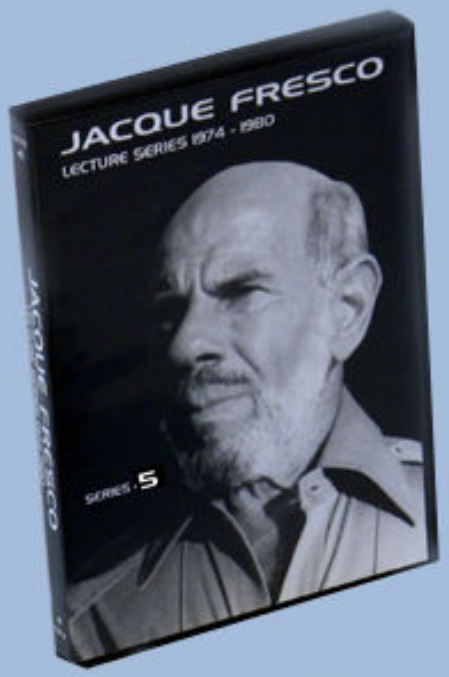
JACQUE FRESCO
over 16,000 subscribers and growing

MAIN PAGE
over 1,000 followers and growing

JACQUE FRESCO
over 9,000 followers and growing

over 170,000 people from all over the world are constantly following the work of The Venus Project

fresco's classic lectures



This Audio CD set is comprised of classic archives of Jacque Fresco's lectures from 1974-1980. This set contains ALL series (20 CD set). Each disc covers a different topic:

Series 1
1. Optimum Tools
2. Science and Social Change
3. Relationships
4. Functional Ethics

Series 2
1. Metaphysics
2. Inadequacy of Language
3. Corruption
4. Religious vs. Scientific Approaches.

Series 3
1. Controlling Behavior
2. Identifying and Changing Values
3. Looking for Justice
4. Depression

Series 4
1. Approval and Identity
2. Science, Illusion, Authenticity
3. Social Progress and Productivity
4. Systems Approach

Series 5
1. The Difficulty of a Scientific Attitude
2. Ethics, Competition, Purpose
3. Myth of Communication, Perils of Social Adjustment, Seeking Acceptance
4. We're All Well Adjusted

BUY THE FULL SET OF LECTURES >

These were taped on non professional personal tape recorders by the attendees of these lectures. The sound is not high quality. We felt that any background noise is acceptable because of the significance of the information.

Listen to a segment for the lectures (note: the animations are not included on the CDs, the CDs are only audio files).

more excerpts

> Religious or Scientific Approaches
> Corruption
> Inadequacy of Language
> Metaphisycs
> Control, Language and Relationships
> Depression
> Science and Social Change
> Inadequacy of Language (p1)
> Inadequacy of Language (p2)
> Developing Mental Control

" THE SALE OF THESE PRODUCTS HELP SUPPORT THE PROJECT "

BUY INDIVIDUAL SETS OF LECTURES >

Patching an obsolete system with online ads

by Tio

If you are using the Internet, and I suppose you all do, then you may be one of those who are annoyed by ads.

Advertising is found on almost all websites and most of the time is very intrusive; not to mention, advertising largely relies on tracking the user's activity to provide "personalized" ads. This may be very uncomfortable for many since very few are aware of it. Maybe I do not want to be "spied" upon online, so they should make this very obvious. But, it seems that money discourages companies from caring about this aspect.

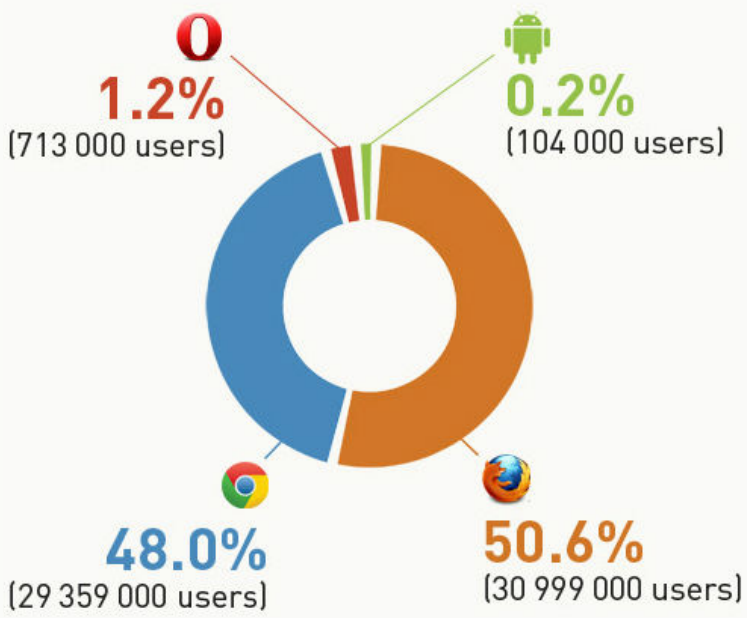
There are, however, some advantages of online personalized results--tracking your online activity--including personalized and more accurate Google searches. Likewise, perhaps you want to buy a product from Amazon and the A.I. of Amazon which tracked what you have been looking at before, recommends better products for you.

But when it comes to ads, they are mostly intrusive and, for me at least, completely irrelevant. If I want to buy a certain item, I will be looking for that certain item on Google Shopping or Amazon.

Ads are the main revenue for websites and this makes them grow like mushrooms.

The good part of all this is that you have the option to remove all of them--having control of the websites you visit; but, this may lead towards some very interesting consequences. Since ads are the main profit revenue for most, if not all websites, small and effective browser plugins that block ads will destroy these profits. In fact, we are already seeing the aftermath.

AdBlock Plus, one of the most used plugins for Chrome and Mozilla (the most used browsers in the world) has more than 61 million users worldwide and is growing.



Two months ago, many important German news publications started a campaign against AdBlock Plus users: "This morning at 10 AM, several of the best known German online news publications (Spiegel Online, Sueddeutsche.de, Faz.net, time, and Golem.de RP Online) started a joint campaign urging their readers to disable their ad blocker. " - AdBlock Blog

This is a sign of how desperate they must be.
But what was the result?

"We're thankful to the call of four leading German newspapers to disable Adblock Plus. We saw downloads on adblockplus.org increase with 127% and donations up with 167%!" -AdBlock Plus official facebook page.

They are not the only ones who made the mistake of asking people to disable their ad blocking plugins.

This is a video of Hank Green (who is quite an online celebrity) screaming the same desperate frustration.

And again, what did he achieve? Just read the comments from the video where most people thank him for making them aware of it.

There are plenty of such examples including the second largest French Internet Service Provider who started to block ads by default or the AdTrap, a little device founded on Kickstarter which blocks all ads on all devices if plugged into your home router.

The main idea of this article is to show how unreliable and unsustainable the monetary system currently is. It is true that many Youtubers, journalists, and websites as a whole produce great content only because they get funded by ad revenues and such plugins will eventually destroy them. But if anyone sees these technologies as destroyers they are missing the entire point.

The Digital Economy minister of France forced the ISP to restore the ads access, YouTubers ranted about it, journalists protested, and websites were threatening to close because of it. But they all are blind to the fact that this is not a solution. People have many choices on how to block ads, either by devices like AdTrap or browser plugins like AdBlock, and they also have the choice of content that is not based on ads for support. So all this ranting against blocking ads will only make people use such technologies even more.

These people are angry but this is how this system works: you need to perform to be paid. I am sure they have rents to pay and kids to feed. However, ads are another byproduct of this unsustainable world we live in.

The interesting thing is that there are thousands of people like Hank Green, those journalists, and the websites that threatened to close. The Internet is abundant in content and this makes it free; therefore, such rants against the evolution of technology are useless. People who do not adapt to new conditions will be left behind. They are the ones who didn't understand.

Free services such as Wikipedia, Khan Academy, Linux, and millions of other websites and services will always exist. They will thrive because they are based on volunteer work, not money revenue, although some of them need donations from time to time to keep their servers going. But, if you make the servers autonomous--based on A.I.-- and powered by renewable energy, for instance, then you can make the entire service free of money and based on volunteer work, something similar to what The Venus Project wants to achieve.

If there was no need to make money from your work to pay your rent, buy food, clothes, or anything you need, then we wouldn't need advertising.

As we see, most people hate advertising. This is not at all a solution to feed and clothe people. The more informed people become, the less efficient online ads will be. But it doesn't stop there. Online ads can be intrusive and annoying, but there is another darker side of the entire scheme: Black Hat SEO.

I have a friend who makes around $2,000 a month from making online search results a mess. He basically buys medical, scientific, or any kind of article already written by specialists or bloggers, and automatically replaces words with synonyms or changes the article´s structure using different software tools. In the end, the result is a messy, irrelevant article, but an article that is search-engine friendly.

What does it mean?

Well, next time you are searching for "I have a chest pain, what should I do?" you may find articles which are constructed only for obtaining top positions in search results. Because it is not a real medical article, but one distorted and restructured by automated software to get better search results, you may be confused by its content or make wrong decisions altogether.

There are hundreds of thousands of people like my friend, and they make thousands of such websites per team. Each site links to another one, like a huge maze of websites whose content is only for search engines and not for humans. This means there is a huge mess of websites out there that are not relevant at all, and this is all done for online advertising to get a better position in search results. These people manipulate sites just to get as many hits as possible which generates more money from the advertising that accompanies them.

There is a huge chain of people involved in Black Hat SEO whose work is completely legal. Basically, it is legal to ruin the Internet.

This causes a tremendous amount of work by search engine administrators to block these websites. But, the Black Hat SEO guys are always finding solutions to make their websites search engine friendly.

There are other such methods used by people to gain money online, like sending emails to people or making fake websites to sell fake products. According to a Commtouch report in the first quarter of 2010, there are "...183 billion spam messages" sent every day. The most popular spam topic is "pharmacy ads" which make up 81% of email spam messages.

I know many people who make thousands of dollars from stealing Ebay, Autoscout24, or other online accounts and selling fake products using them. They can easily get credit card credentials, purchase items with them, or transfer money to people they know. It is an entire world that you may have never heard of. It makes millions of dollars because it is quite easy to steal identities in this system: a system which relies on nonsense or money, instead of a more robust system using resources directly for human need such as The Venus Project advocates.

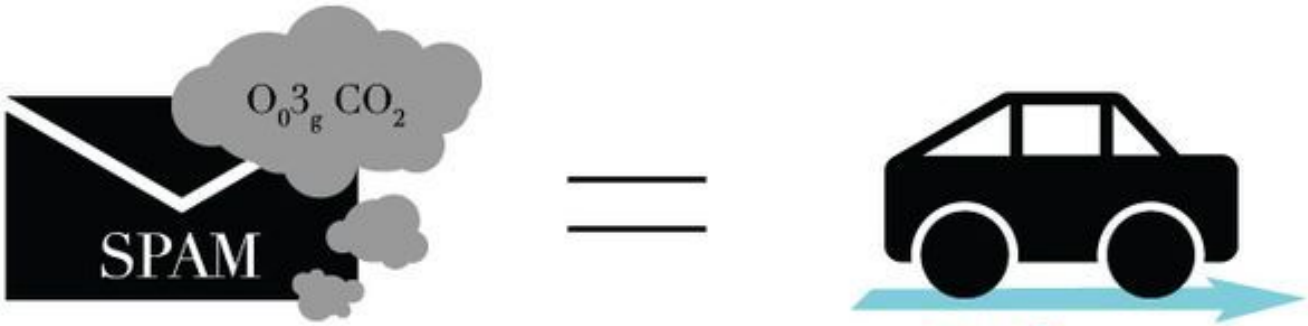
This entire chaotic and crazy online world exists only because of the need to make money and nothing else, with little or no care for human beings. But keep in mind, they are all people like you and me who need money to survive, except they fall into this path because it is easier and more money can be made from it.

And if you think ads are just a small part of the Internet, keep in mind that Google makes 97% of its revenue from advertising, and the Internet as a whole is a billion-dollar-a-year industry (9.6 billion in first quarter of 2013).

So if people are starting to block ads, then what will so many companies like Google do?

There is nothing anyone can do with technology that someone else can't counteract. However, when money is involved, like everything else in the monetary system, it gets contaminated and corrupted out of the necessity for some to survive. Online advertising is an unsustainable and offensive result of the

Watch TROM: Advertising for additional information



GHG (Green House Gas) Emissions associated with 1 spam email equal to driving **3 feet.**

Multiplied by the **95 trillion** spam emails sent in 2010

BEHAVIOUR:
FROM GENES TO GENDER

by Tio

Jacque Fresco talks a lot about human behaviour and explains it in various, easy to understand ways. I want to offer further explanations and provide an article with new examples and facts about what generates everyone's personality, including yours and mine.

We will look into values, gender, biology, and psychology.

VALUES

First of all, who are you?

You might say your name, job, or whatever else you like. You will likely try to find yourself within a bunch of words whose meanings you have learned from parents, school, friends, the Internet and so on. You learned what a job is, what morality is, what is good or bad, beautiful or ugly, acceptable or not, violent or relaxing.

One interesting, but disturbing, example of how important environment is in developing your personality and values is feral children: kids raised in extreme environments.

Genie was devoid of social contact from birth. When she was discovered ten years later, she was so different from a normal human being that she was considered "mentally ill," although she had no brain damage whatsoever. She couldn't talk or walk properly. She showed no feelings of empathy, morality, objectivity, sociability, and so on - behaviours thought to be normal and inborn to all humans.

Secret of the Wild Child

There are other cases, such as a girl raised more among dogs than humans so that she behaved more like the dogs than humans.

These examples are not cases in which the children have brain damage. The examples show not only that human values come from the environment, but that even one's walk, facial expressions, or body language are influenced by one's experiences.
You can watch these two documentaries: "Wild Child The Story of Feral Children" and "Feral Children" and read more about this topic.

Even tiny differences in the environment can cause huge changes in behavior. One example is of two identical twins, one of whom is stung by a bee at age 4. That one small event over his extended life may make him fearful of all insects for the rest of his life, causing "insectophobia". This kind of event is one reason people have very different personalities. Their life experiences are always unique.

This is why people looking at the Moon have so many different reactions to it: some will photograph it as art, some will not care, and others may cry with amazement. So, even when we see the same thing, we have different interpretations of it because of personal experiences--which shape our values.

GENDER

You may think there are only two genders, male and female, but you would be mistaken from both a cultural and biological perspective. There are people whose biology doesn't permit a distinct identification as male or female. It is called intersex.

Cultural gender is a different thing though, and depending on the culture, there may be more than simply female or male genders. We know that even those two differ: there are many "masculine" people who are very different from each other. In India (Hirja), Nepal, Pakistan, and Samoa people accept a third gender as being legal. Fa'afafine, for example, are boys raised as girls in random fashion who behave like women because of that. So the environment even changes what we call "gender".

Watch "Me My Sex and I", "Sex Swap" and "The Codes of Gender" to learn more about gender.

TASTE AND COLOR PERCEPTION

Within the scientific community, there is no longer any doubt that taste is mostly created by what is around the "thing" you taste: the color, the restaurant, the name of the food, the shape of it, or whether it is soft or crispy.

Even for those with a different biology, such as more taste buds, taste preferences are shaped by their experiences. There are people who wouldn't eat mushrooms, but because of different circumstances, end up loving them.

Watch "The Truth About Taste" documentary for more about taste.

Color perception is another great example of how the language you speak makes you see colors in different ways. See this 7-minute video showing a great experiment on that.

And if it influences sight in this powerful way, what else may language influence?

You often hear that there is a gene that makes people violent, alcoholic, gay and so on.
But is there? Can a gene lead to such complex, culturally evolved behaviours? We know indeed that genes determine your eye color or how susceptible you are to certain diseases. But, can genes lead to various types of behaviours?

Consider the most often cited cases:

VIOLENCE - GENE

There is a gene called the "warrior gene" (a variation of monoamine oxidase-a gene) which supposedly makes people more aggressive and violent.

I remember a documentary by BBC called The Warrior Gene in which they investigated just that. The reporter, a cool, calm guy, finds out at the end of the documentary that he has that gene and his mother tells him that he was lucky because she raised him very well. There is a point there. Even if you see aggression in mice with that gene variation, it doesn´t mean it applies to humans. And it doesn't mean, even if it does apply to humans, that they will become aggressive or that this is the cause of violence.

Are most people with this gene violent? If yes, what do you call violence? Verbal violence? Being rude may be seen as violent to some, while dancing around naked may seem aggressive and dangerous to others. Putting someone in debt for the necessities of life so they can never pay it off - even with a lifetime of laborious work - may also be considered violent. So, even the definition of violence or aggression is culturally-based. Therefore, even when the experiment seems to suggest something, it is often extremely vague.

Let´s suppose we get some broad definition of aggressive behaviour and find a pattern in those "warriors". If those people can control their behaviour through mental hospitals, anger management sessions, etc, then the gene is less or not important at all.

Think of Tourette's syndrome. Basically it causes people to behave in an uncontrollable way. They can't control some of their body or language actions, resulting in different types of tics. Some curse, some engage in small rituals before doing something else, some whistle, and others can't even talk because of it. It is thought that a high level of dopamine causes their brain to trigger impulsively, similar to being electrically over-charged, and this causes their uncontrollable movements. You may want to curse, but you can hold it in - they can't. It's like the one second before you sneeze when you can't do much to stop it.

It is thought, though with little evidence, that Tourette's syndrome is genetically transmitted like the Warrior Gene. We can see both as genes making people behave in a certain way. But here is the thing: we cannot say people with Tourette's are violent, aggressive, funny, or dangerous, etc, because the dopamine makes their thoughts have tiny explosions. Rather, their thoughts are created by their experiences. Thus some may curse in Spanish, some in Japanese, some may play drums better, some may just laugh, and so on.

So the biology of Tourette's syndrome impacts people´s body (brain) but that doesn't imply that it also makes them violent or aggressive in any way, or untruthful, funny, stupid and so on. It varies from case to case depending on how they're raised and their experiences. In the same sense, I find it hard to say there is a violence gene. There may be a gene that makes your muscles more tense, increases the level of dopamine in your brain, and so on, but the end result is dependent on environment as in the Tourette's syndrome example.

In both cases,Tourette's and the Warrior Gene, the same patterns of behaviour, the symptoms, are found in people without those genes, thus making the gene less, or not at all important, even if it exists.

There are people with frontal lobe damage from mutation or accident who don't feel emotions like others do. It is a bit tricky to explain, but imagine someone crying or being afraid, and you being unable to understand how he or she feels.

Can we say such people are predisposed to being murderers? Are they going to kill other people just because they do not understand how pain feels? Of course not. One guy with this problem talked about it and said he understands but cannot feel. But this won't make him a murderer! He sees someone crying and, although he can't feel what that person feels, he understands that the other person feels sad. He has been educated on how to react to such a situation, as you have.

Watch documentaries about Tourette Syndrome.

ALCOHOLISM -GENE

If a gene makes you an alcoholic, I may have it, but since I don't drink alcohol, I don't know and this is the point I want to make.

What people say about an alcoholism gene is that some people react differently to alcohol than others at a biological level. It is similar to how you react to certain drugs or foods. They have shown that people with this gene tend not to be affected by alcohol as much as others. So Raul, having this gene, can drink 5 beers and not feel dizzy. So far it says nothing about making Raul an alcoholic, and this is true because Raul regulates how much he drinks. Having that gene does not mean you will become an alcoholic, just that your body reacts differently to alcohol than others.

There are some who do not taste sweets very much. Can we say they are diabetic, or even predisposed to diabetes? Of course not. Even people genetically predisposed to diabetes, but with no taste for sweets, are less likely to develop diabetes if they eat very little sweets.

My mother is predisposed to diabetes and she likes sugary foods, but she eats only sugar-free foods so as not to endanger her health. She is doing that because she knows about it and has made an educated decision.

So you see, even this kind of gene does not determine behaviour. At most, they can influence things in the same way that having a poor olfactory sense may let you sniff dangerous gases. But there are already dangerous gases that your nose can't even sense, though you know to stay away from them.

Yes, you may have a physical condition that you can learn about and deal with, but IT does not control you and with understanding, it is you who are dealing with IT.

There is a gene mutation which causes people to have no sense of touch. A girl with this condition was looking out the window when a smell of burnt flesh caught her attention. She realised after a few minutes she was standing on a hot radiator. She was careful from that moment on.

GAY -GENE

The notion of a "gay gene" is a controversial topic, but no gay gene has been isolated so far.

Read more about it at Wikipedia: "The relationship between biology and sexual orientation is a subject of research. A simple and singular determinant for sexual orientation has not been conclusively demonstrated—various studies point to different, even conflicting positions"

Also read this or any scientific paper on genes. You will never find the "gay gene".

But like for the other examples, the research is very vague and we may wonder what is a homosexual? Maybe there is sexual attraction in general, and a "gay gene" is one of the manifestations of it.

We know people are sexually attracted to lots and lots of things: animals, toys, big breasts, hair, long feet, children, sounds, old people, dead people, some get sexually excited over fires, electronics, and so on. It is so diverse that if we were to find a name for all of them and a corresponding gene, it would seem completely crazy.

What makes gays so special then? To be honest I have no clue. I do not understand what they are attracted to specifically, but I don't understand myself either in regards to what aspects of a girl are attractive to me and why.

Knowing that which is attractive today wasn't attractive hundreds, even just tens of years ago, we can reasonably conclude that culture impacts what we find attractive and what not.

We see today guys who look very much like girls, and yet they are not gay. And also the opposite - girls who look and behave in a masculine manner. There is a mix of behaviours that cannot be properly defined. There are people who are transformed into gays or lesbians, or other genders as mentioned at the beginning of the article, so if that can be created by the environment alone, then this is very important. It means that the gay gene may play no significant role even if it exists.

There was a video that circulated online and made a noise among people. It was a sexy woman, naked, filmed in a bathtub acting in a very seductive way. First the face, then the camera went down slowly to the breasts, and then continued lower. At this point "straight" people were excited and attracted by the women, but gays not at all. But when it goes further down, that "female" had a penis. She was a he, a transwoman, a guy who looked like a women but with breast implants. At this point the straight guys were deeply disgusted. A penis ruined their entire week, but made the gays happy after all. :)

The entire story is very relevant.

If we think about it, the guy who looked like a woman was attractive for straight guys, and it was only a visual or configuration allure. The only problem was the penis, the male sexual organ. What if she/he had a sex change operation as thousands do each year? Straight guys could have been deeply in love with "him" and gays would be disgusted. Watch this, this and this male to female transformations.

Such scenarios happen many times and prove how sexual attraction can be purely visual, and that what is attractive can be rendered by the culture.

Therefore when a gay person likes another gay man, he likes the present gay man, the visual perception of him, and not the gays of the 16th century. That means they are influenced by the culture and the environment they are exposed to. This imposes the configuration for the sexual preferences.

Gay-like behaviour in animals seems to be an argument for gay being natural, but there are serious problems with that theory.

First of all, there are plenty of "abnormal" sexual behaviours in animals, not only attraction for the same sex. You can see tons of youtube videos of turtles trying to have sex with shoes. Can we put us "in their shoes" and see this act as a manifest of the shoe-turtle gene? Or is it better to see what makes the turtle attracted to that shoe in the first place? It seems to be visual so we have to investigate from this point on.

This is how you do science in my opinion. Same with gays, lesbians, heterosexuals, normal people and so on. If we are to understand what makes people attracted to whatever they are attracted to, we should carefully investigate it. If the turtle was blind, it probably wouldn't have tried to have sex with that shoe in the first place.

You should ask yourself what made you attracted to girls if this is your preference. Do you remember? Because I personally don´t. It is a mystery to me. It just happened at an age when I could understand the cultural difference between boys and girls. And this is the key.

The blind gay

I read an article about a boy blind from birth who did not like to play with boys because he was overweight and was afraid of falling down. Because of that, he ended up playing with girls and eventually behaving like them. "I much preferred sitting and reading a braille book, or talking to the girls. I even learned to bounce a ball, and learned some of the rhymes the girls would say while playing ball or jumping rope."

But he was eventually rejected by the girls: "I was teased unmercifully, and soon, even the girls got tired of playing with me, and so I mostly stayed alone, reading, and listening to what was going on around me." Could that have been the moment that made him attracted to boys?

He doesn't claim that but it may be so because, as he says, he did not know at that age about the difference between boys and girls: "All the boys were interested in sports and rough games. I wasn't. Some talked about girls, but because I was blind from birth, and because nobody ever talked to me about sex, I had no idea what was being discussed. I am ashamed to say that I didn't even know the difference between girls and boys, except that girls were usually nicer to me, and yet, I felt a strange feeling when hugging a male student."

So he did not know the difference between boys and girls, only that at a cultural level, girls are nice and boys are tough. And then he was rejected by girls and later, he started to be attracted by what he understood as being boys.

Of course it is my interpretation of the whole story, but please read the article he wrote and draw your own conclusions.

You should keep in mind that all those behaviour examples people say are gene-driven can be triggered by environment alone. So even if these genes are ever isolated, if people with no such genes show behaviour similar to those who have them, then those genes are relatively less important, or not important at all, and we should take a look at the environment.

We could have ditched the entire article for this last point because it is completely relevant and as scientific as it can get.

A. You are your neuro-connections and there is no doubt about that. What you like, what you accept, what you recognize, even your senses from pain to sight, are influenced by these neuro-connections. This is why a person with Alzheimer's disease forgets his name, or doesn't know how to make a coffee anymore. Parts of his/her neuro-connections are negatively affected.

B. We also know as a fact that even the act of thinking changes the physical structure of your brain. New experiences shape your brain, your neuro-connections. Even if you are born with a specific neuro-connection the brain is so plastic, it can and eventually will change. This is why even genetically identical twins have different neuro-connections. Watch this brilliant TED presentation with a full explanation of that:

Ok, so, from A + B = you are your experiences. Simple.

People are so different from each other, yet very similar in many ways. But both cases are shaped by different or similar experiences.

Jeff Cates : visiting the research center

Two years ago my life changed completely. My relationship of seven years ended abruptly. I found myself 30 years old without adequate employment and needing to provide not only for myself, but for my two children. I had to move my children and I into my mother's house until I could find adequate employment.

Getting back on my feet proved difficult, to say the least. I found myself in jobs that relied on either the manipulation of people, maintaining inadequate machines, or doing monotonous repetitive manual labor that clearly could be automated. I couldn't help but think that there is something very wrong with the way the world is. I started learning about politics, assuming that this must be the way to help understand the problems I could see in the world. I started doing a lot of research and learning many different political points- of-view on how to manage society.

I found myself feeling even more discouraged than ever before. I found politicians to not only be incompetent, but who clearly based their ideas and positions on who gave them the most money, not what was in the best interest of the people who elected them. They were putting money over the well-being of other fellow human beings.

So at this point I felt that getting money out of politics was the best way to get politicians to base decisions on the well-being of other humans. I started having political discussions with people. My lifelong friend Paul started having discussions with me and presented an idea of removing money altogether - a moneyless society called a Resource-Based Economy. Well, at first I could not fathom that. I had never before been presented with such an idea. Money just seemed like something that had to exist.

He recommended three documentaries called Zeitgeist. I have always considered myself an ope-minded person and felt like I respond the best to logic and reason. So I watched all three of them on YouTube. Well, I have never in my life been so much on the edge of my seat. It struck such a nerve in me that it changed me forever. It sparked something in me that gave me an insatiable thirst to learn more.

I have always been a passionate person, but this gave me an excitement and a passion to share what I've learned like I didn't know existed in me. Zeitgeist gave me a deeper understanding of the problems and a hopeful solution called The Venus Project. So I spent literally every single day for two years learning and researching everything I could find on the subjects presented.

But nothing came close to inspiring me and giving me hope like listening to Jacque Fresco. I searched on YouTube for every lecture, interview, and movie about The Venus Project. I have learned more in the last two years than I have in the culmination of my entire life. I became so excited about what I was learning I couldn't help but talk to everybody that came into contact with me about The Venus Project. I had a naïve notion that if people just knew about this then people would fall in love with it the way I did. Unfortunately, it made a lot of people upset and caused some serious arguments with people I cared about. I became discouraged with discussions I would have and would over hear. I saw people I once respected as very intelligent saying things that were not based on research and the scientific method, but rather on cultural myths and superstitions that had no basis in reality.

So for a while I stopped trying to use logic and reason with people and just continued my learning. I read every book that I heard Jacque recommend in interviews. I researched every subject Jacque talked about. It just inspired me like nothing else to hear him explain a better way for humanity. I learned about the tours that were held in Venus, Florida. People would go there and Jacque and Roxanne would show them models and designs of The Venus Project and have group discussions on many subjects. There is a guided tour of the premises that has amazing and beautiful buildings, gorgeous ponds, and palm trees. There are even alligators and other wildlife to experience in a safe and friendly environment. The best part for me was to get the honor of sitting and taking part in a conversation with Jacque himself. I knew that the chance to have a face-to-face encounter with one of the most extraordinary human beings who ever lived, was a once- in-a-lifetime opportunity I couldn't pass up, especially considering that learning about The Venus Project changed not only how I view the world, but also how I interact with people forever.

The trajectory of my life had been changed. So I started booking the trip. I was telling my friends and family about it. They all knew what it meant to

me and were very excited for me. My father who was just starting to learn about The Venus Project asked if he could go with me. Of course I said, "Yes," and we planned the trip together. As the date to leave got closer, my father and I would have very good deep conversations about the ideas and directions of The Venus Project. It brought my father and I closer together and created a deeper bond between me and him that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

On the 28th of May we got on a plane headed for Florida. After a couple days of fun in the sun it was time to head down to Venus. I was a bit overly excited as you might imagine that morning. We got there about two hours early before the tour began. As soon as we pulled up, my father wanted to get a picture of me at The Venus Project gate. After the picture I see someone walking down the road. A man walks up to us and introduces himself. He said his name was Larry and has lived there for about four years. He was very friendly and welcoming. He invited us to come in early and wait for the tour to begin. The dirt road that I drove on started to wind to the right. As soon as I turned the corner, I saw an older man in a chair soaking up the sun. It was Jacque Fresco!

It was surreal seeing him sitting there. I felt like I already knew him, but obviously he had no idea who I was or how profoundly he had influenced my life.

Without even giving it a second thought I got out of my car walked up to him and said "It's an honor to meet you, Sir. You have changed my life. I want to thank you for everything you've done." I extended my arm to shake his hand. He smiled at me, stood up from his chair. Shook my hand and said "Thank you for coming. We will be starting soon. Feel free to make yourself at home." I was just beaming and quickly asked if I could get a picture. Jacque obliged. Right then my dad came up, I gave him my camera and my dad got a picture that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

After the picture I looked back and I noticed that the driver door was open on my car. I didn't even have the presence of mind to close the door when I got out. Jacque went inside to get out of the sun. In my dreamlike state I started looking around at the beautiful area. The buildings were elegant and intelligently designed. It's so full of life everywhere. There were stunning trees and plants, including palm trees.

There are ponds with turtles and fish, and even an alligator. As I was wondering around a bit, I saw Roxanne Meadows. She was getting things ready for the tour. I introduced myself to her, and she was very kind enough to give me a picture too. I then ran back to Larry. We started talking by the road and directing the cars where to park. We had a very good conversation as we waited for everyone else to show up. As more people showed up they joined us in our discussion. Larry is a very knowledgeable, kind, and down-to-earth man. I enjoyed his company a lot. It was finally time to start the initial discourse Jacque gives to "break the ice". Everyone sat in a lovely conference room with pictures of Jacque's magnificent drawings and renderings of buildings and city structures on the walls. They had complimentary cookies, fruit, juice, and water.

My dad took full advantage of the free cookies. As Jacque addressed the group he was just exquisite in his articulation and ideas. It was almost unbelievable that he is 97. I have heard him speak on many occasions, but seeing and hearing him in person left me astounded and blown away. After the initial dissertation, it was time to walk around and see all of the unique and impressive buildings. The first was originally a guest house. It was very cozy, open and extremely well-designed to withstand anything nature could throw at it. Roxanne explained how the buildings were constructed, how she did a lot of the work herself. She was very brilliant, focused, and an effective communicator. The next building held a lot of models of flying machines, models of the self-erecting structures, a model of a city structure, models of space stations, vehicle models, and different housing molds that Jacque had designed.

It's just staggering and vast, so many things to look at and think about being possible. I would give almost anything to fly in one of Jacque's flying machines. Then it was off to a building that said "future by design" on the door.

At this point I felt like I was having an out-of-body experience soaking in all these inconceivably astonishing things that Jacque had worked on, and I couldn't fathom how there could be more. But as soon as I stepped in it was absolutely evident there was a lot more. There were models of cities floating on water, multiple bridge designs, extrusion machines that make living units, boat designs, helicopter designs, a model of the supercomputer, and much more.

I was so elated I felt intoxicated. It was like a science geek's heaven. We started walking to Jacque and Roxanne's home. What a magnificent looking building. It was a place I had seen many times in movies, documentaries and lectures. But walking in and seeing the couch that I had seen so many others sit on and to finally get my turn to sit on it was priceless to me. I got to see his work station where he had drawn up and conceived many of the incomparably astounding ideas for social design. I browsed through his library of books and took pictures of them so I could go look them up when I got home. After all that mind-blowing stuff to look at, it was time again to sit back down with Jacque and do a Q-and-A type discussion. I had been looking forward to this since I decided to go on this trip. I had a lot of questions I was working on before I went, but one in particular was really important to me. I wanted to know how to get through to somebody who displays consistent cognitive dissonance. When we got back to the conference room I got a seat on the couch right next to Jacque. I waited for others to ask questions first. Then when the questions from others slowed down, I started asking him all of my questions.

I asked him a few other questions but was eager to have him help me with communicating to others that I was having a hard time getting through to them. Jacque explained to me about strategizing to different people in different ways. He told me a couple of stories about how he dissolved a ku klux Klan group and a white citizens council group in Florida. He explained the strategy he used to get through to them, and once they could understand better they stopped engaging in abhorrent behavior towards others. That was such a wonderful way to help me understand what I should do. It really got me thinking about how I could help myself and others in having a better understanding of culture, themselves, their environment, and how it all interacts together. He really showed me how important communication is and how difficult it is with such an ambiguous language. It was invaluable advice and something I will remember forever. When it was over, they gave all of us a few DVD's and a copy of Jacque's book The Best That Money Can't Buy. My dad was really excited to start reading the book.

When we got back to the hotel my dad decided to stay in and read. I couldn't wind down from everything, so I decided to walk down to get a beer. It was a slow night so the bartender and I started talking. I was telling him I was from Idaho and was visiting Florida to go see The Venus Project. Of course, he asked me what that was.

After I started to explain a bit he became very interested. He pulled out his smart phone and went to thevenusproject.com. I showed him a few things and recommended he watch "Paradise or Oblivion". We watched it right there at the bar on his phone. He was blown away by it. I recommended he go take the tour and wrote down a few more websites and documentaries to watch. He thanked me and I went back to the hotel. The next day my father and I got back on a plane going back home. To pass the time we read one chapter of Jacque's book, then stopped and discussed what we had read. It was really a fun way to read it. A lady that was sitting next to us asked us what we were reading. So I told her about why I went to Florida and what The Venus Project was. I explained who Jacque Fresco was and some of his inventions. She became very interested. I gave her also a list of documentaries and websites to look up.

I let her read a few chapters of Jacque's book and she was so enthralled by it that she said she would order it as soon as she got home. That was so satisfying to feel like I was helping people and paying forward. When we got back home I told my friends and family about my trip and how amazing it was, and I felt like I had a great moment of clarity. I decided I was going to make a life change. I decided to go back to school and major in communications. I am excited about what the future holds for me. This has changed my life forever. There was only one logical conclusion to me on how to enshrine this experience. A tattoo!

Spending money in today´s world

I promise this article will leave you all in wonder, asking yourself if indeed you live in a completely insane society.

We all know money is some paper that does not reflect the resources on this planet; it's something people invent along with the rules and the way they are distributed.

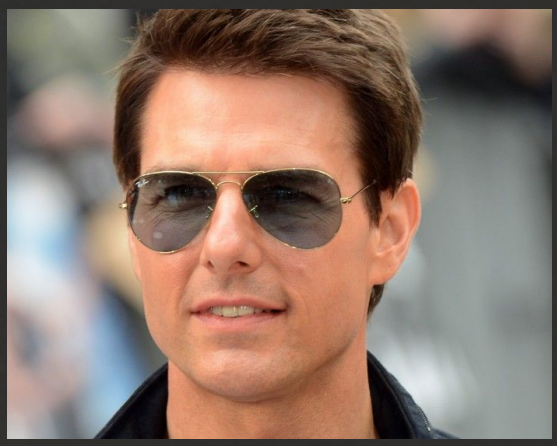
Before you start reading this article, click this link, and leave it open in your browser. You will check it later, I promise it will be interesting.

How fairly is money distributed in this world? How fair is it for people? Do jobs or work hours reflect the earnings?

First of all, how can we decide if one job is more important than another? Well, we can use society as a whole and perhaps determine that the "needs" are most important for people: health, better transportation, better communication, etc. So, that being said, perhaps people dealing with those should be paid the most within a saner society. But is this the case?

The average paid surgeons in the US earns about $230,000/year, which is a lot. They may save some lives, even improve the medical fields, so perhaps they are worth that much money. Do not forget though, that this is the average salary, so there are plenty of other surgeons with lower incomes and indeed some with higher ones.

Well, the yearly income for a surgeon is as much as Tom Cruise acquires in a DAY. He may save some lives too it's true, but only in a film studio, pretending to do so, once or twice a year. He gets around $65,000,000 a year for mimicking human reactions for different scenarios.



People call this job "acting". Basically it's something that you do in real life, reacting to different scenarios. But Tom Cruise is paid for faking those moments. I am sure you faked them many times when you lied or wanted to impress someone, but you are not getting paid, are you?

Speaking of movies, have you seen Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End? You know, the third part of Pirates of the Caribbean, that movie about some pirates, and some others who look like pirates but are different creatures. Squids with hats perhaps?

That movie is the most expensive movie ever made, 300 million dollars. Followed by Spiderman with 258 million dollars, or Avatar 237 million dollars. (source) Huge amounts of money for an hour or two of... nothing basically. Imaginary and very unoriginal stories.

Now, the most expensive documentary ever made is Planet Earth by BBC with a budget of 23 million dollars. Five years in the making, 71 camera operators filmed in 204 locations in 62 countries on all seven continents, spending more than 2000 days in the field. Eleven hours of Full HD material, more than double than all the 3 movies mentioned above combined, yet with a budget that is 10 times lower than the cheapest of the three, Avatar.

Not to mention how relevant that documentary is, capturing amazing creatures and places on planet Earth, some never before seen.

Let´s compare two other different "species". A physicist and a football (soccer) player.

The physicist can, and mostly will, bring a huge value to the society as a whole. From construction, to transportation or any scientific research, this job brings an advantage all the time, both in solving problems or improving technology or knowledge.

So a physicist makes about $112,000 a year, if he or she gets a very well-paid job. Which, comparatively speaking, is quite a lot of money.

But how much does Cristiano Ronaldo make? "Who is he?"- you may ask. Well his legs are very unique, he can juggle with a normal size ball pretty well. He is in a team of 10 other people who go onto a field to play a game called football (soccer, in the US). Two teams, in total of 22 people who are chasing a ball for 90 minutes to score it in a netted "gate". Additionally, 80,000 people or more pay to sit in a stadium, making a lot of appreciative noise while watching them play.

Ok now, how much a year does this creature with trained legs make? Well....a salary of about $22,000,000 a year, and another $22,000,000 a year from advertising endorsements. So a total of 44 million dollars a year. WOW, I wonder if he had 4 legs how much he would have been paid.

So, we compared four professions, two of which are relevant and directly connected to human needs, and two of which are entertainment jobs, ones who makes you laugh, excited, scared, or trigger some feelings in you occasionally.

We said that the average surgeons in US achieves about $230,000 a year compared to one of the best-paid actor who makes around $65,000,000 yearly, and average physicist salary with $112,000 with a football player with $22,000,000, both yearly.

The differences between these salaries are so huge, it is very hard to imagine. I understand traveling to Mars is a journey of several months, but it's so hard to imagine a trip to Betelgeuse, 640 light years away, although I see them both in the sky each night.

Let´s look at other spendings, this time at a larger scale. The entire US budget for science (National Science Foundation - NSF) is 7 billion dollars a year, which is just half of what it costs Brazil to host the 2014 world cup (14 billion dollars) So compare a month of football (14 billion dollars) with a year of scientific research (7 billion dollars).

The examples are plenty, but the point is the same: people spend money in this world, consuming a significant amount of energy, resources and human labor, for things that have less or no relevance to human needs. Basically this world emphasizes entertainment more than people´s needs. And it isn't that we do not have needs or that the $7 billion on science in the US is enough, not at all.

Think of how many houses Brazil could build from the 14 billion dollars spent on one month of football. Or they could invest that in renewable energy or health care. Or if instead of paying one football player you could pay, from the same salary, 150 scientists more. Or instead of making a movie with a 300-million-dollar budget, you could make 13 documentaries as relevant as Planet Earth depicting the amazing and complex world we live in, emphasizing education.

In this world you can make money by just putting money in the bank or by having sex, but contrary to that you can struggle to survive even if you have a school diploma in science.

It is dangerous and frightening because more money equals more power, and since very uninformed people make "easy money" they can have power and influence, or even direct the lives of millions. They can and do have laws created for their own advantage. It is not always people with knowledge or those who can make more appropriate decisions who have the ability to do so. All too often the ones who have accumulated the most wealth have more authority to enact laws and make decisions concerning your life, but the decisions are almost always made for the benefit of those who are in positions of authority because of their wealth, and unfortunately the rest of the population is not their concern.

It’s sad, because billions are starving while few have more money than the rest of the world combined.

It is unsustainable: because we live on a finite planet, spaceship Earth.

My father works 10 hours a day for 5 Euros an hour, 6-7 days a week. His life is basically work and sleep. He makes around 1200 Euros a month in the best case scenario, which is a good salary if you think about, but maybe you don't realize what it is like to work 10 hours a day, 6-7 days a week. And he does everything, from electrical engineering to repairing homes or cleaning them. So it is physical work.

Try to compare this kind of life for 1200 Euros a month with a salary that an actor has...ridiculous.

It is true, my father doesn't have the Tom Cruise look, but still I am sure he can cry or laugh at command if you give him 1% of Tom Cruise´s salary.

That example is one of billions around the world, and it’s not the worst of all. There are people who survive with $30 a month, or less.

Remember that link I provided at the beginning of the article? If you didn’t opened it when I first presented it, visit it now. From that moment till now, the time you spent reading the article, Tom Cruise made about 4,000 dollars, or as much as my father makes in 3 months.

I don´t say we shouldn't have entertainment, although I would say it should be more informative. I am just emphasizing that people focus much more on it than on people´s needs, and this is utterly insane in a world where people die of starvation each day, or in a world where billions are enslaved by jobs, having a robotic and non-sensical life.

by Tio - (original article)

NEWS

Graphene breakthrough could unlock renewable energy's potential

Researchers from Monash University in Australia have developed a compact graphene-based next generation energy storage device capable of lasting as long as a conventional battery.

Their graphene-based supercapacitors (SC) could be used in renewable energy storage, portable electronics and electric vehicles.

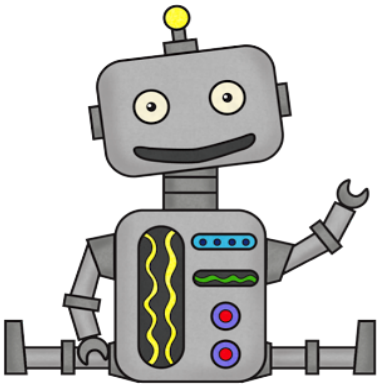
Developing compact and affordable storage systems is seem as critical to the widespread deployment of wind and solar systems, which rely on the weather and can be erratic.

"Supercapacitors are particularly good for their fast charging/discharging ability and long life span, which makes it particularly promising for electricity grid levelling (smoothing fluctuation)," project leader Professor Dan Li told RTCC.

read it all >

AI software smart as a 4-year-old

Artificial and natural knowledge researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago have IQ-tested one of the best available artificial intelligence systems to see how intelligent it really is. About as smart as the average 4-year-old, they will report July 17 at the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Conference in Bellevue, Wash.



They found ConceptNet 4 has the average IQ of a young child. But unlike most children, the machine's scores were very uneven across different portions of the test. "If a child had scores that varied this much, it might be a symptom that something was wrong," said Robert Sloan, professor and head of computer science at UIC, and lead author on the study.
Sloan said ConceptNet 4 did very well on a test of vocabulary and on a test of its ability to recognize similarities.

"But ConceptNet 4 did dramatically worse than average on comprehension — the 'why' questions," he said.

One of the hardest problems in building an artificial intelligence, Sloan said, is devising a computer program that can make sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts — the dictionary definition of commonsense.

"All of us know a huge number of things," said Sloan. "As babies, we crawled around and yanked on things and learned that things fall. We yanked on other things and learned that dogs and cats don't appreciate having their tails pulled." Life is a rich learning environment.

"We're still very far from programs with commonsense-AI that can answer comprehension questions with the skill of a child of 8," said Sloan. He and his colleagues hope the study will help to focus attention on the "hard spots" in AI research.

read it all >

Plant bacteria breakthrough enables crops worldwide to take nitrogen from the air

The University of Nottingham scientists have developed a new technology that would enable all of the world's crops to take nitrogen from the air, instead of requiring expensive and environmentally damaging fertilizers.

Professor Edward Cocking, Director of The University of Nottingham's Centre for Crop Nitrogen Fixation, has developed a unique method of putting nitrogen-fixing bacteria into the cells of plant roots.

His major breakthrough came when he found a specific strain of nitrogen-fixing bacteria in sugar cane known as G. diazotrophicus could intracellularly colonize all major crop plants.

This ground-breaking development potentially provides every cell in the plant with the ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen. The implications for agriculture are enormous, as this new technology can provide much of the plant's nitrogen needs, he suggests.

Professor Cocking said: "Helping plants to naturally obtain the nitrogen they need is a key aspect of world food security."

read it all >

Technological wonders of the month:

- **Watson and the future of cognitive computing**
- **From Jeopardy to Cancer Institute: How IBM Watson is Transforming the World**
- **Study: Using 3D Printers for Household Products Could Save Hundreds of Dollars**
- **'Intelligent knife' tells surgeon if tissue is cancerous in 3 seconds**
- **'Impossible' material made by Uppsala University researchers**
- **How 600mph San Francisco to Los Angeles Public Transport Could Work**

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